

Association Link

compiled by
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Look for delegate petitions in the mail

Preparations are being made for the 2017 Annual Convention of Delegates

this November in Fort Worth, Texas. Forms to nominate delegates to the annual meeting will be mailed to every active life and regular member of the Association

who qualifies as an eligible voting member prior to April 7, according to the Bylaws.

The nomination period is April 10-June 9. Each eligible voting member is allowed to nominate one eligible voting member, including himself or herself, who resides in the same state or district. The candidate should be highly involved in the Angus business, willing to attend the meeting and able to represent Angus breeders.

Beginning this year, members will be able to view a list of eligible voting members who have been nominated in their herd state. The list will be available through AAA Login.

Signed nomination forms must be received in the Association office no later than 4:30 p.m. CDT on June 9, at which time every qualified nominee will be included on a state ballot. State ballots will be mailed to all eligible voting members in July to vote for the final slate of state delegates. When you receive the petition, please return it promptly.

See you in Fort Worth

The Angus Convention will take place Nov. 4-6, 2017, at the Fort Worth Convention Center in Fort Worth, Texas. Nearly 2,000 cattlemen participated in the 2016 Angus Convention hosted in Indianapolis, Ind., and Fort Worth will host an event you won't want to miss. Offering Angus University educational sessions, industry-leading speakers and top-notch live entertainment, the 2017 Angus Convention will offer something for every progressive cattleman and woman.

Registration and hotel blocks open July 1. Visit www.angusconvention.com for more information.

Report new association, auxiliary officers

State and regional Angus associations should submit their officer listings to the Association by May 1 to ensure correct listings on www.angus.org. Listings will include association name, current officers, contact information and website, if applicable. If you haven't received a form to update your association's officer listing, contact Amber Wahlgren or Lea Ann Maudlin at 816-383-5200 or prphotos@angus.org.

State auxiliary information is requested in the same mailing. Please be sure to complete both forms and return them in a timely manner.

Foundation scholarship applications available

The Angus Foundation will award a number of undergraduate and graduate scholarships this year. Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the 2017 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Des Moines, Iowa. The

eligibility requirements for the general Angus Foundation scholarships remain the same. Angus youth who are graduating from high school or in college currently may also be eligible for other Angus-related scholarships that are permanently endowed and managed by the Angus Foundation.

The Foundation will also make available graduate student scholarships to young men and women actively involved in the Angus breed who are pursuing advanced degrees.

Applicants must have at one time been a National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) member and must currently be a junior, regular or life member of the Association. Strong preference and priority will be given to applicants pursuing advanced degrees related closely to the beef industry.

The Angus Foundation undergraduate and graduate student scholarship application and guidelines are available at www.angusfoundation.org. The application deadline is May 1.

For more information contact the Angus Foundation at 816-383-5100.

Allied Angus Breeders Scholarship

The Angus Foundation Board of Directors approved funds to provide \$1,000 scholarships to three youth who use Angus genetics in their seedstock or commercial operations. Awards will be given out in July 2017.

Applicants must be enrolled in a junior college, four-year college/ university or other accredited institution for the fall of 2017. They can be an entering freshman or a continuing student in any undergraduate program. The applicant or applicant's parents/guardians must have transferred or been transferred an Angus registration paper in the last 36 months.

Full details of eligibility can be found at www.angusfoundation.org. Information can be found in the resources section on the home page. Applications are available at www.angusfoundation.org and are due May 1.

Single-step evaluation testing continues

AGI continues to test single-step genetic evaluation, the method the company plans to soon implement in order to calculate the American Angus Association weekly expected progeny differences (EPDs).

This is an ongoing effort and the top priority for AGI. Therefore, the Association plans to move to this updated statistical model only after thorough internal measures are complete. AGI will continue to fine-tune the required software to ensure the procedures used for implementation offer the utmost accuracy and valuation for members.

Meanwhile, the Association will rely on the current Angus genetic evaluation based on the latest calibration released late last year, which is the largest and most accurate beef genomic calibration

ever conducted in the global beef cattle industry.

While AGI continues to refine the single-step methodology for targeted implementation in spring 2017, Angus breeders can be confident the current evaluation provides the most accurate, comprehensive values available.

For more about single-step genetic evaluation, contact AGI at 816-383-5100.

Sire Evaluation Report released

The printed version of the American Angus Association *Spring 2017 Sire Evaluation Report* became available mid-January. Containing the EPDs and dollar-value indexes (\$Values) released Friday, Dec. 9, 2016, the evaluation includes 2,346 sires in the main report with another 2,651 bulls listed in the Young Sire Supplement. For information

about the report and the Association's National Cattle Evaluation, visit <http://www.angus.org/nce/>.

Active members who return their blue request cards to receive a printed copy of the report received it automatically. To request a copy, contact Brenda Weigart at the Association at bweigart@angus.org or 816-383-5144.

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Apply for Auxiliary scholarships now

The American Angus Auxiliary annually awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors. The postmark deadline for the national contest is May 1.

Junior Angus members must first be chosen as a state auxiliary scholarship

winner before advancing to the national competition. Applications are available at www.angusauxiliary.com. State Angus auxiliary scholarship contacts are listed in the March issue of the *Angus Journal* on page 53.

Madison, Wis., to host 50th NJAS in 2018

The NJAA will celebrate a major milestone in 2018 as it hosts the 50th NJAS in Madison, Wis. The annual event is a summer highlight for many Angus juniors and their families, and the American Angus Association is proud of

the young leaders it has encouraged over the past five decades.

The 50th NJAS will take place July 7-13, 2018, at the Alliant Energy Center. Participants will notice a change in the schedule, which begins on Saturday and ends on Friday.

More than 1,200 head of cattle are expected to compete in the showing at the 2018 NJAS. The classes offered will provide opportunities for juniors to exhibit their owned heifers, bred-and-owned heifers, cow-calf pairs, steers, and bred-and-owned bulls.

Additional events will include the National Showmanship Contest, NJAS Carcass Steer Contest, Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off, and educational contests that include prepared and extemporaneous public speaking, career development, graphic design, writing, photography, livestock judging, and video and poster competitions.

“Wisconsin will be a fantastic location as we bring together Angus juniors and their families to showcase the best the Angus breed has to offer — fantastic cattle and young leaders,” says Jaelyn Clark, events and education director for the American Angus Association.

Sponsored by the Illinois and Wisconsin junior Angus associations, next year’s NJAS is themed “Livin’ the Dream in 2018!”

Athens, Ga., to host BIF Convention May 31-June 3

Preparations are being finalized for the 2017 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Annual Meeting and Research Symposium. The annual event will be May 31 to June 3 in Athens, Ga., at the Athens Classic Center.

The BIF conference routinely draws in a large group of leading seedstock and commercial beef producers, academics and allied industry partners. The attendance list is a who’s who of the beef value chain, offering networking opportunities and conversations about the issues of the day. Program topics focus on how the beef industry can enhance value through genetic improvement across a range of attributes that affect the value chain.

The event features two and a half days of educational programming and a full day of tours visiting regional seedstock and commercial producers.

The conference will open with a Young Producers Symposium on Wednesday, May 31, designed to network and equip young cattle producers with essential knowledge as they grow their role in the business.

Thursday morning’s general session is titled “The Promise of Genomics for Beef Improvement” and will be led by Keith Bertrand and Daniela Lourenco of the University of Georgia. Friday’s general session will focus on “Profitability using the tools we have.” Afternoons are filled with breakout

sessions focusing on a range of beef production and genetic improvement topics. The conference will wrap up with a tour of the Georgia beef industry on Saturday morning.

Early registration deadline is May 1. Attendees can save \$100 by preregistering. Online and PDF registration options are available at www.beefimprovement.org.

For more conference details, including registration information, complete schedule and lodging information, visit www.beefimprovement.org or contact University of Georgia host Ronnie Silcox at rsilcox@uga.edu or 706-542-9102.

Angus Media will provide online coverage of the event at www.bifconference.com.

CAB/NJAA Scholarship application due May 1

A long-standing scholarship awarded through the Angus Foundation is the \$1,000 Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB)/NJAA Scholarship. Applicants must have at one time been an NJAA member and must currently be a junior, regular or life member of the American Angus Association, along with being an incoming sophomore, junior or senior in college majoring in animal science, meat science, food science, agricultural communications or a related field of academic study. Applications are due May 1. A recipient will be honored at the NJAS in Des Moines, Iowa, in July. Visit www.angusfoundation.org for additional eligibility requirements and guidelines.

Future Angus Stockmen, Select Sires offer sponsorship to AI school

Future Angus Stockmen is offering a sponsorship for one enrollee to attend artificial insemination (AI) school, courtesy of Select Sires. Applications are available online at www.angus.org/Performance/Documents/FAS_AISchoolApplication.PDF and are due April 30. A recipient will be announced by May 16.

Future Angus Stockmen is aimed toward college-age or recent graduates who want to raise high-quality Angus-based commercial cattle. The program offers educational opportunities that teach participants how to thrive in the cattle industry, social networking to connect them with fellow producers, and leadership development to instill an entrepreneurial spirit and drive to improve their businesses.

Future Angus Stockmen enrollment can be completed at any time, and enrollment forms can be found in the commercial programs section at www.angus.org.

Cattle Industry Convention coverage available online

The 2017 Cattle Industry Annual Convention & National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Trade Show was in Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 1-4. Full event coverage by the Angus Media

communications team is available at www.angus.media.

Coverage includes general session business; keynote speakers; Cattlemen's College[®] summaries; CattleFax outlook summaries; policy updates from NCBA, the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB), the Federation of State Beef Councils, the American National CattleWomen Inc. (ANCW); and much more.

Note these junior deadlines

The Events and Education Department has announced several upcoming deadlines and event dates of note for NJAA members.

- April 1-2 — Western Regional Junior Angus Show, Reno, Nev.
- April 6-9 — Raising the Bar, Des Moines, Iowa
- April 15 — Atlantic National Junior

Angus Show ownership and entry deadline

- May 1 — Gold Award applications due
- May 1 — Outstanding Leadership Award applications due
- May 1 — Ownership and entry for the Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show

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- May 1 — CAB and Angus Foundation scholarship applications due
- May 1 — Entry deadline for the Eastern Regional & All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity Junior Angus Show

See additional deadlines through June in the "Next Generation" column in the

Angus Journal. Visit www.angus.org/njaa for more information and deadlines. Please note there are no exceptions to any of the ownership and entry deadlines.

Fewer hurdles to better feet The American Angus Association

announces its collaboration with participating universities to assess foot structure on behalf of breeders who seek help in assessing their herds. The new service allows animal science students and judging team participants to collect foot scores as they visit Angus operations. It is available to all Association members,

and compensation is voluntary and at the discretion of breeders.

Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) Genetic Service Director Kelli Retallick says it's a helpful step in acquiring the valuable data needed to develop genetic selection tools for selecting animals with proper foot and leg structure.

Retallick says producers should first think about collecting foot scores when they're collecting yearling data — then maintain records on those animals as they age.

The American Angus Association began accepting foot scores in 2014 to eventually develop an EPD for structure.

To date, approximately 7,700 foot scores have been collected, with approximately 75% of these scores derived from yearling-age animals. More holistic data across the population will allow the Association to develop a reliable tool for commercial users of Angus genetics to select the right bull for their operations, Retallick notes.

To get started, breeders can simply reach out to a participating judging coach to request a student's assistance for on-site collection. "Students then gain valuable contacts within the Angus industry and familiarize themselves with data management and performance programs," Retallick says.

The Association's simple foot-scoring system characterizes cattle for two traits: foot angle and claw set. Both scores are ranked on a 1-9 scoring system, with 5 being ideal.

Contact information and scoring materials are available at www.angus.org. Contact the Association's Performance Programs department at 816-383-5100 with further questions about foot scoring or the university partnership. Go to www.angus.org/performance/footscore/footscoreentryhelp.pdf to view the list of participating universities.

Custom Cattle Tags offers affordable ID

Cattle producers looking for affordable ways to identify their herd should visit www.customcattletags.com, a service provided by the American Angus Association. Anyone can order ear tags, applicators, syringes and accessories.

Custom Cattle Tags provides high-quality, low-cost, customized ear tags, blank tags and prenumbered tags for cattle producers across the United States.

